

ADVANCEMENT OF A MODULAR ROTOR PERMANENT
MAGNET FLUX SWITCHING MACHINE FOR HIGH TORQUE
PERFORMANCE

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I hereby declare that the work in this thesis is my own except for quotations and summaries which have been duly acknowledged

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To my beloved mother and father...



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ABSTRACT

Usage of electric motors in electric vehicle applications have gained a lot of attention since the motor must possessed high torque density and power. Permanent magnet flux switching machines have attracted considerable interests in recent years since the flux focusing is utilizable, both armature windings and PM excitation sources are on the stator, and the salient pole rotor is simple yet robust. Regrettably, salient rotor and stator of PMFSM with single tooth winding have inherited flux cancellation, flux leakage, high iron losses, high winding losses, and longer flux paths which reduced the torque and efficiency of the motor. In this thesis, a flux switching motor using permanent magnet employing modular rotor is designed and investigated for high torque making it suitable for high torque performances applications. The design engaged a three-phase 12 stator tooth taking up four sets of windings per phase with 10 pole feasible modular rotor. The characteristics performance of modular rotor PMFSM were designed and analysed using JMAG designer 14.1 utilizing 2D finite element analysis (2D-FEA). The initial 12S/10P modular rotor PMFSM topology achieved an average torque of 34.44 Nm with an output power of 5.67 kW. To further improve the performance of modular rotor PMFSM, local optimization approach was conducted which achieved an average torque of 60.49Nm and an output power of 23.34 kW while maintaining the same motor's outer diameter. Furthermore, to compare modular rotor PMFSM with salient rotor PMFSM, FEFSM and HEFSM were utilized to choose best candidate for high torque performance. In comparison, optimized modular rotor PMFSM generated the highest output torque followed by optimized salient rotor HEFSM which generated the second highest torque. Consequently, the modular rotor PMFSM produced higher average torque, less iron losses, less weight and shorten flux path than using salient rotor pole PMFSM, FEFSM or HEFSM. In conclusion, modular rotor PMFSM confirms good agreement with high torque applications.

ABSTRAK

Penggunaan motor elektrik dalam aplikasi kenderaan elektrik telah mendapat banyak perhatian kerana motor tersebut mestilah mempunyai ketumpatan daya tork dan kuasa yang tinggi. Mesin penukar fluks magnet kekal telah menarik minat yang besar dalam beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini kerana pemfokusan fluks yang dapat digunakan, kedua-dua belitan angker dan sumber pengujaan PM berada di stator, serta rotor kutub menonjol yang ringkas namun kuat. Malangnya, rotor menonjol dan stator PMFSM dengan belitan gigi tunggal telah mewarisi pembatalan fluks, kebocoran fluks, kehilangan besi serta belitan yang tinggi, dan mempunyai jalur fluks yang lebih panjang menyebabkan pengurangan tork dan kecekapan motor. Dalam tesis ini, sebuah motor penukar fluks menggunakan magnet kekal menggunakan rotor modular telah direka dan dikaji untuk menghasilkan tork yang lebih tinggi agar sesuai diaplikasikan pada kenderaan elektrik. Reka bentuknya menggunakan tiga fasa 12 gigi stator yang mengambil empat set belitan bagi setiap fasa dengan 10 kutub rotor modular. Prestasi ciri PMFSM rotor modular direka dan dianalisis menggunakan pereka JMAG 14.1 yang mempunyai analisis unsur terhingga 2D (2D-FEA). Topologi rotor modular PMFSM 12S/10P pada awalnya mencapai tork purata 34.44 Nm dan kuasa keluaran 5.67 kW. Untuk meningkatkan lagi prestasi rotor modular PMFSM, pendekatan pengoptimuman tempatan dilakukan dan mencapai purata tork 60.49 Nm dan kuasa keluaran sebanyak 23.34 kW disamping mengekalkan diameter luar motor yang sama. Selain itu, perbandingan antara rotor modular PMFSM dengan rotor menonjol PMFSM, FEFSM dan HEFSM telah dilakukan untuk mengenalpasti tork yang tertinggi. Sebagai perbandingan, rotor modular PMFSM yang dioptimumkan menghasilkan tork keluaran tertinggi diikuti dengan rotor menonjol HEFSM dioptimumkan yang menghasilkan tork output kedua tertinggi. Oleh yang demikian, rotor modular PMFSM menghasilkan tork purata yang lebih tinggi, kurang kehilangan besi, lebih ringan dan memendekkan jalur fluks berbanding dengan menggunakan rotor menonjol PMFSM, FEFSM atau HEFSM. Kesimpulannya, rotor modular PMFSM merupakan persetujuan yang baik dengan aplikasi-aplikasi tork yang tinggi.

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LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Ψ	-	Flux linkage due to excitation components
ϕ_m	-	PM flux linkage
α_a	-	Filling factor of armature coil
α_{cog}	-	Electrical angle of rotation
α_f	-	Filling factor
η	-	Efficiency
θ	-	Electrical angular position of rotor
ω_r	-	Rotational speed
ρ	-	Copper resistivity
B_n	-	Magnetic flux density
f_e	-	Electrical frequency
f_m	-	Mechanical rotation frequency
H	-	Height of coil slot
I_a	-	Armature coil current
i_d	-	d-axis current
i_q	-	q-axis current
J_a	-	Armature current density
kW	-	Kilowatt
ℓ	-	Stack length
L	-	Coil length
$L_{a,e}$	-	Stack length of machine
L_{a-end}	-	Estimated average length of armature end coil
L_d	-	d-axis inductance
L_{a-end}	-	Estimated average length of field excitation end coil

L_f	-	Total series inductance of field coil
L_q	-	q-axis inductance
N	-	Number of turns
n	-	Number of elements
N_a	-	Number of turns of armature coil
N_{a-slot}	-	Number of slots of armature coil
N_{a-slot}	-	Number of slots of armature conductor
N_p	-	Number of periods of cogging torque
N_r	-	Number of rotor pole
N_s	-	Number of stator slot
p	-	Pole pairs number
P_a	-	Armature coil loss
P_c	-	Copper loss
P_i	-	Iron loss
P_{max}	-	Maximum power
P_o	-	Output power
q	-	Number of phases
R_a	-	per-phase armature coil resistance
R_c	-	iron core resistance
R_f	-	Total series resistance of field coil
R_{in}	-	Inner radius of coil end
R_{out}	-	Outer radius of coil end
S_a	-	Armature coil slot area
T_e	-	Electromagnetic torque
T_L	-	Load torque
T_{max}	-	Maximum torque
V_1	-	Volume of coil slot
V_2	-	Volume of coil end
V_{total}	-	Total volume of coil
W	-	Width of coil slot
$x_{d,q}$	-	Components in d-q axis

$x_{u,v,w}$	-	Components of U, V, and W phase
<i>AC</i>	-	Alternating current
<i>AlCiRaF</i>		Alternate Circumferential Radial Flux
<i>DC</i>	-	Direct current
<i>EM</i>	-	Electric motors
<i>EV</i>	-	Electric vehicle
<i>FE</i>	-	Field excitation
<i>FEA</i>	-	Finite Element Analysis
<i>FEC</i>	-	Field Excitation Coil
<i>FEFSM</i>	-	Field excitation flux switching motor
<i>FSM</i>	-	Flux switching motor
<i>HE</i>	-	Hybrid Excitation
<i>HEFSM</i>		Hybrid excitation flux switching motor
<i>HEV</i>	-	Hybrid Electric Vehicle
<i>IPMSM</i>	-	Interior permanent magnet synchronous motor
<i>LOA</i>	-	Local optimisation approach
<i>ModR</i>		Modular rotor
<i>PM</i>	-	Permanent magnet
<i>PMDC</i>		Permanent magnet direct current motor
<i>PMFSM</i>	-	Permanent magnet flux switching motor
<i>PMSM</i>	-	Permanent magnet synchronous motor
<i>SPMSM</i>	-	Surface mounted permanent magnet synchronous motor
<i>SRM</i>	-	Switched reluctance motor

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of study

The problem of global warming in the 21st century is a major public concern today. A variety of detailed experiments have also been carried out by certain parties to show that this is not an unusual issue that needs to be overlooked, but instead, to come out with collection of studies, promising proposals and viable solutions[1]-[5]. As stated in [1]-[2], the release of man-made greenhouse gasses [GHGs] is one of the key factors leading to the escalation of global warming. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is identified as one of the major greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere by the combustion of fossil fuels[3].

The conventional internal combustion engine (ICE) has been used in vehicles for personal travel for more than 100 years. At present, the market for private vehicles is growing as the world's population is growing rapidly. Emission is the critical problem associated with usage of private vehicles. This has become a significant factor to global warming, which has been an acute issue that must be faced by everyone. As a result, the government and related agencies have come up with better regulations to address the issue of emissions and fuel efficiency. In order to achieve a full-range, high-efficiency vehicle while reducing pollution of emissions, the most feasible solution at present is an electric vehicle (EV) powered by a battery-charged electric motor[6-10]. Generally, there are several important steps and attention needs to be taken to select an electric motor for EV propulsion systems. In fact, the automotive industry is still hunting for the most appropriate electrical propulsion system for EVs.

The main features of this case are performance, reliability, and cost. The selection process for the suitable electrical propulsion systems will be carried out at the system level. The option of electrical propulsion systems for EV depends primarily on three factors: driver preferences, vehicle size constraints and energy source. For these criteria, it is known that it is difficult to identify different motor operating points[11]. Choosing the most suitable electrical propulsion device for the EV is thus always a challenging job. At present, the major type of electric motors under serious consideration for EVs is the Flux Switching Machine (FSM), which has recently become a well-known and appealing machine type due to its various advantages such as high torque density and efficiency[12-16].

Flux switching Machine (FSM) was introduced in 1955 as a single-phase alternator by Rauch and Johnson [17], which consists permanent magnet as the single magnetic flux source and has been receiving significant attention afterwards especially in electric propulsion system application and meanwhile, the first three-phase system was later developed in 1997 by E. Hoang *et al* [18]. Firstly, the invented permanent magnet flux switching machine (PMFSM), which is a permanent magnet (PM) single-phase limited angle actuator, or more well known as Laws relay [110,111], with four stator slots and four rotor poles was developed. It is then extended into a single-phase generator with four stator slots and four or six rotor poles. FSM comprises all flux sources in the stator and besides the advantage of brushless machines type, FSM also has a single piece of iron rotor structure that is robust and applicable for high-speed applications [19]. Over the past ten years, many new FSM topologies have been developed for various applications, ranging from low-cost domestic appliances, automotive, wind power, aerospace, and others [20].

In general, FSM can be broken down into three major clusters namely permanent magnet flux switching motor (PMFSM), field excitation flux switching motor (FEFSM) and hybrid excitation flux switching motor (HEFSM). Both PMFSM and FEFSM have only one single main excitation flux source, respectively induced by permanent magnet and field excitation coil (FEC) whereas both PM and FECs are being used to generate flux in HEFSM. On the other hand, the armature winding and permanent magnet are both stationary in PMFSM, but magnetic flux linkage can be altered either positive or negative polarity depends on the position of the rotating part. The concept of FSM is involves changing the polarity of the flux linking the armature winding by motion of the rotor [21]. Finally, the excitation flux produced by

permanent magnet flows from stator to rotor and oppositely from rotor to stator in order to accomplish one complete cycle. Similarly, this particular operation and principle take place for the rest of FEFSM and HEFSM as well.

Based on literature, first PMFSM was introduced as a single-phase alternator by Rauch and Johnson in 1955 [12] and has been getting momentous consideration subsequently especially in electric force system application. Meanwhile the first three phase permanent magnet flux switching machine was established in 1997 by E. Hoang *et al.* [18]. The conventional design is, however, receive the drawbacks of high PM volume. Hence, variety of PMSFM designs has been introduced ever since. For reducing the number of PM consumption, the stator poles are substituted alternately by a simple stator tooth and consequently the new E-core is established [13] as shown in Figure 1.1(a). The E-core configuration is validated with the mixture of radial and circumferential directions of PM as shown in Figure 1.1(b).

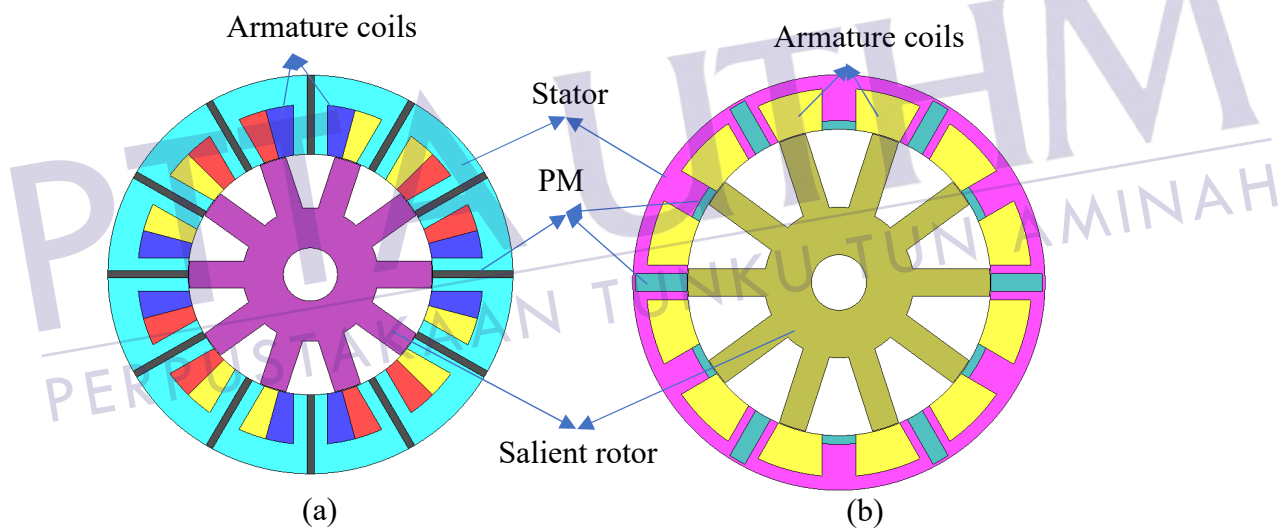


Figure 1.1: (a) Conventional PMFSM (b) 12S-10P AlCiRaF PMFSM

1.2 Problem statement

Recently another design is established in PM with alternate circumferential and radial direction [15,16] as shown in Figure 1.1 (b). But there are some drawbacks of alternate circumferential and radial (AlCiRaF) PMFSM that reduce the torque and efficiency of the motor, such as flux cancellation, longer flux paths and flux leakage. In the Figure 1.2 (a), red circles show the areas where fluxes are cancelled due to opposite fluxes produced by the radial and circumferential source pattern. For the flux leakage

illustrated in Figure 1.2 (b), it is a result of geometry arising from the stator tooth width which is not large enough for the flow of flux. Furthermore, when the stator tooth housing the flux source aligns with a rotor tooth, flux flows from it into the rotor tooth and links with the adjacent stator pole and linking the adjoining rotor to complete a full cycle thus following a longer path as shown in Figure 1.2(c).

Therefore, to deal with all above mentioned limitations, novel configuration of PMFSM based on modular rotor is proposed that will ensure less use of materials is proposed for high torque performance.

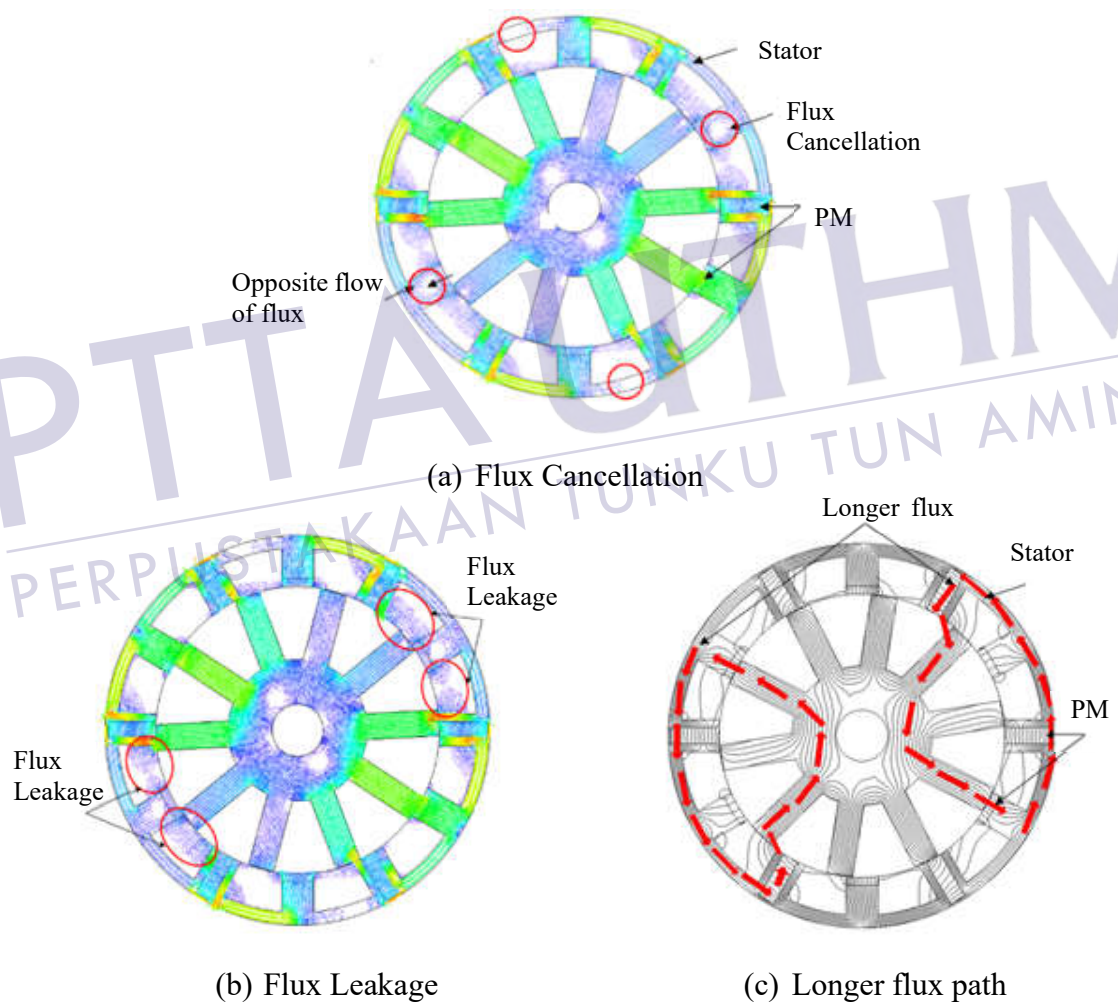


Figure 1.2: (a) Flux cancellation (b) Flux leakage (c) Longer Flux path

1.3 Aim and objectives of study

The main aim of this research is to develop a novel structure of modular rotor with permanent magnet flux switching motor (PMFSM) for electric vehicles applications. In order to achieve the main aim, there are some specific objectives that would be fulfilled, which are:

- (i) To design and investigate the performance of a modular rotor based PMFSM in order to reduce the longer flux path in rotor.
- (ii) To enhance the performance of modular rotor PMFSM by working on cogging torque, back emf, average torque, output power, efficiency, and torque-speed characteristics by using local optimization method based on changing all sensitive parameters.
- (iii) To compare initial and optimized design of modular rotor PMFSM with the initial and optimized designs of salient rotor FEFSM, PMFSM and HEFSM, to choose a best candidate for high torque performance.

1.4 Scope of the study

This research focuses on the design of modular rotor permanent magnet flux switching motor for lightweight electric vehicle application. The scopes of the research are the following:

- (i) Design the 12S/10P modular rotor PMFSM using the commercial JMAG Designer version 14.1 and analyzed by 2D-FEA.
- (ii) The motor diameter is 150 mm, stack-length is 70 mm and airgap is 0.3 mm all are fixed.
- (iii) The limit of the bus voltage is 415 DC V, armature current density J_a is set to a maximum of 30 A_{rms}/mm^2 . Examination of coil test is conducted on the armature winding, the operating principle of the proposed motor is performed and verified. The electromagnetic performances such as peak magnetic flux linkage, cogging torque, induced back-emf will be analyzed. Furthermore, torque-speed characteristics are conducted by varying the armature phase angle from 0-80 degrees and average torque using 2D-FEA. Finally, motor losses such as iron and copper are computed based on FEA and formula.

- (iv) The Local optimization approach is selected from several other methods because of its flexibility. The method is able to analyses the performance of the electric motor with each parameter freely adjusted.
- (v) Comparison of FEFSM, PMFSM and HEFSM with the new modular rotor PMFSM by resizing the current design to the new 150 mm outer diameter.

1.5 Significant of study

All electric vehicle (EV) propelled by electric motor (EM) powered by stored electricity as electric vehicles are road user friendly, does not depend on fuel oil for propulsion. It is obvious that transiting to reliable EVs propelled EM will be embraced by various governments across the world as solution for the high cost and maintenance of ICE with depleting oil reserve. Furthermore, demand of EVs will be high due to durability, reliability, excellent performance, and low cost. The work in this thesis can lay claim to have provided new insights in the following aspects:

- (i) Feasible configurations of three-phase flux switching motor (FSM) employing modular rotor using permanent magnet (PM) as excitation flux have been designed.
- (ii) FSM employing rotor segment/modular is found to be capable of an optimal torque. The modular rotor also offers reduction in rotor mass over conventional rotor topology due to a smaller number of PMs and uses less iron material in rotor.
- (iii) Local optimization approach is utilized to improve the motor performance, compared with existing FSMs using salient rotor pole.

1.6 Thesis organization

This thesis is structured into the following chapters:

Chapter 1 covers introduction, problem statement, research objectives to solve the problems, scope of work and structure of thesis.

Chapter 2 presents the overview of flux switching motors that summarizes the basic theory and classification of FSM including the examples of PMFSM, FEFSM

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LIST OF PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

Journals (Scopus Indexed)

- (i) **Irfan Ali Soomro**, Erwan Sulaiman, Hassan Ali Soomro & Syed Muhammad Naufal Bin Syed Othman, Performance Analysis of Permanent Magnet Flux Switching Machine Based on Modular Rotor, *International Journal of Advanced Trends in Computer Science and Engineering*, 2020. (Scopus Indexed). Accepted.
- (ii) **Irfan Ali Soomro**, Erwan Sulaiman, Hassan Ali Soomro & Laili Iwani Jusoh, Advancement of Modular Rotor Permanent Magnet Flux Switching Motor Using Local Optimization Approach, *International Journal of Advanced Trends in Computer Science and Engineering*, 2020. (Scopus Indexed). Accepted

Proceedings (Scopus Indexed)

- (i) **Irfan Ali Soomro**, Erwan Sulaiman, Hassan Ali Soomro. Modular rotor Based Permanent Magnet Flux Switching Machine for Light Weight EV. *IEEE 15th International Colloquium on Signal Processing & Its Applications (CSPA) 2019*: IEEE. pp. 182-185.
- (ii) **Irfan Ali Soomro**, Erwan Sulaiman, Hassan Ali Soomro & Faisal Amin Comparative Study on a Modular Rotor and AlCiRaF Permanent Magnet Flux Switching Machine. *IEEE International Conference on Automatic Control and Intelligent Systems (I2CACIS) 2019*: IEEE pp. 199-203.
- (iii) **Irfan Ali Soomro**, Erwan Sulaiman, Hassan Ali Soomro & Faisal Amin, Performance analysis of modular rotor based permanent magnet flux switching machine for lightweight electric vehicles. *International Scientific Forum (ISF) 2019*.

- (iv) **Irfan Ali Soomro**, Erwan Sulaiman, Mahyuzie Jenal, Hassan Ali, Overview of inner rotor radial permanent magnet machines for electric vehicles. *The 1st International Conference on Advanced Sciences and Engineering 2020 (ICASE 2020)* (Accepted)

Award

- (i) **Gold Medal** in International Research and Innovation Symposium and Exposition (2019), Irfan Ali Soomro, Dr. Erwan Sulaiman and Hassan Ali Soomro, “SalMoN Motor (*Salient stator, Modular rotor, Non-overlapping winding*)” UTHM. 24th September 2019.



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